

in the application and initiate an environmental review process pursuant to 7 CFR part 1794. This process will focus on any environmental concerns or problems that are associated with the project.

(2) The level and scope of the environmental review will be determined in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Policy for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), RUS's environmental policies and procedures (7 CFR part 1794) and other relevant Federal environmental laws, regulations and Executive Orders.

(3) Activity related to the project that will adversely affect the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives must not be undertaken prior to completion of RUS's environmental review process.

§ 1703.33 Other considerations.

(a) *Equal opportunity and non-discrimination requirements.* All zero-interest loans and grants made under this subpart are subject to the non-discrimination provisions of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1971 *et seq.*, 1975a *et seq.*, 2000a *et seq.*; 7 CFR part 15); section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (29 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*; 7 CFR part 15b); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*; 45 CFR part 90); and Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity, (3 CFR, 1964–1965 Comp., p. 339) as amended by Executive Order 11375, Amending Executive Order 11246, Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity (3 CFR, 1966–1970 Comp., p. 684).

(b) *Architectural barriers.* All facilities financed with RUS zero-interest loans or grants that are open to the public or in which physically handicapped persons may be employed or reside must be designed, constructed, and/or altered to be readily accessible to, and usable by handicapped persons. Standards for these facilities must comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4151 *et seq.*) and with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), (Appendix A to 41 CFR part 101.19, subpart 101–19.6).

(c) *Flood hazard area precautions.* In accordance with 7 CFR part 1788, if the project is in an area subject to flooding, flood insurance must be provided to the extent available and required under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*). The insurance must cover, in addition to the buildings, any machinery, equipment, fixtures and furnishings contained in the buildings. RUS will comply with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management (3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117), and § 1794.41 of this chapter, in considering the application for the project. As set forth in § 1794.41 of this chapter, public notice is required if a project will be located in a floodplain.

(d) *Uniform relocation assistance.* Relocations in connection with this program are subject to 49 CFR part 24 as referenced by 7 CFR Part 21, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs except that the provisions in Title III, Uniform Real Property Acquisition Policy, of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601–4655) (the “Uniform Act”) do not apply to this program.

(e) *Drug-free workplace.* Grants made under this program are subject to the requirements set forth in 7 CFR part 3017, subpart F, Drug-Free Workplace Requirements, which implements the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*). A borrower requesting a grant will be required to certify that it will establish and make a good faith effort to maintain a drug-free workplace program.

(f) *Debarment and suspension.* The requirements of Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189), and 7 CFR part 3017, subparts A through E, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement), regarding debarment and suspension are applicable to this program.

(g) *Intergovernmental review of Federal programs.* (1) This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (3 CFR, 1982 Comp., p. 197) and 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V,

Intergovernmental Review of Department of Agriculture Programs and Activities, which implements Executive Order 12372.

(2) With the exception of zero-interest loans and grants for project feasibility studies, proposed projects are subject to the state and local government review process set forth in 7 CFR part 3015. Under the review process, state and local governments have 60 days to comment on the proposed project.

(3) The Administrator will not give final approval to an application until the requirements of 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, regarding state and local government review have been satisfied.

(h) *Restrictions on lobbying.* (1) The restrictions and requirements imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352, entitled "Limitation on Use of Appropriated Funds to Influence Certain Federal Contracting and Financial Transactions" and the implementing regulation, 7 CFR part 3018, New Restrictions on Lobbying, are applicable to this program.ca 7v15.018

(2) The regulation that implements this statute requires applicants for a zero-interest loan in excess of \$150,000 and applicants for a grant in excess of \$100,000 to file a certification statement regarding the use of Federal appropriated funds to lobby the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government, and to file a disclosure form if engaged in these activities using unappropriated funds.

(3) In addition, persons that receive contracts or subcontracts in excess of \$150,000 under a zero-interest loan and persons that receive subgrants, contracts or subcontracts in excess of \$100,000 under a grant are required to file certification statements regarding lobbying the Executive and Legislative branches and, if engaged in these activities, to file disclosure forms.

§ 1703.34 Applications.

(a) Borrowers may file an application on any official workday during the first 14 days of every month. A borrower must send a copy of the application, except for an application that requests a zero-interest loan or grant for project feasibility studies, to the state single point of contact for state and local governments at the same time it

submits the application to RUS. As discussed in §1703.33(g), state and local governments have 60 days to review a borrower's proposal before the Administrator gives final approval to an application, except a proposal for project feasibility studies. The Administrator may establish a special application period if determined necessary.

(b) A completed application will consist of an original and two copies of:

(1) *An application form.* The application must include a completed application form, "Application for Federal Assistance," Standard Form 424;

(2) *A board resolution.* The application must include a board resolution that:

(i) Requests a zero-interest loan and/or grant, including the amount of the zero-interest loan and/or the amount of the grant rounded to the nearest 1,000 dollars;

(ii) Includes the total combined deferment and repayment period requested for a zero-interest loan if less than 10 years;

(iii) Includes the board's endorsement of the proposed rural economic development project as described in the application;

(iv) States the proposed project does not violate §§1703.20 and 1703.21; and discloses any information regarding a conflict of interest, potential conflict of interest, or appearance of a conflict of interest that would allow the Administrator to make an informed decision;

(v) Authorizes an official of the borrower to requisition zero-interest loan or grant funds under this program;

(vi) For an application for a grant only, authorizes the chief executive officer of the borrower to execute and deliver on behalf of the borrower the certification Form AD-1049 regarding a drug-free workplace program as required in part 3017, subpart F of this title; and

(vii) Any other matters deemed necessary by the Administrator;

(3) *Miscellaneous Federal forms.* The application must include the following completed forms:

(i) Form AD-1047, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters—Primary Covered Transactions," as required in